



### PAMPA FORECAST

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 77 Low 47	High 83 Low 51	High 79 Low 48

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 35. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming south.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 77. Wind chill values between 28 and 35 early. Windy, with a southwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 47. Windy, with a south southwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 83. Windy, with a west wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 51. Windy, with a south southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. Windy, with a west wind between 20 and 25 mph, with gusts as high as 35 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 48. Windy, with a southwest wind between 15 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

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Thanks Pampa for a great 6 years!!!

### LAST MINUTE ADS

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**REVIVAL WITH** Sandi Ballew and Marla Jackson will begin Sunday, April 10th at 10:30am, 6pm. Monday 7pm. 18th & Banks.

**SPRING CLASSIFIED** Line Ad Specials (does not incl. Last Minute Ads on pg. 2). 4 lines-5 days \$20.50, 6 lines-6 days \$23.50. Prices good Mar., Apr., May. Questions?? Call 669-2525

**DRY CLEANERS** for sale, for a Great Price!! Call 663-2706

**STORE CLOSING** Sale- Le Chic Boutique, 113 W. Foster. 2 Week Sale! 11-5:30, Tues-Fri, Apr. 5-8th. Mon-Fri 11-15th. 806-665-0346, 806-688-1530. Jewelry Beaded Sets 1/2 Price. Avon 1/2 Price. Purse-Wallets 25%. Wigs \$29.99-Paula Young \$49.99-Human Hair, \$69.99 Skin filament Henry Margu. Redi Hair Clip-ons 25% off. Sunglasses \$3 pr. Chairs, end tables, etc.

### BANANAGRAMS!

Each of the two-letter groups below may be extended both on the right and the left to form a six-letter word. Use the tiles directly above each group to fill in the blanks.

LEVEL

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W E

C E G M N O S  
L A

A C F I K L T  
L I

Yesterday's Answer

F O R N E R Y E  
T Y R I A I N T  
O N E D

### Sudoku

Answer to yesterday's puzzle:

2	5	7	8	4	3	1	9	6
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9	7	3	4	8	2	6	1	5
1	8	6	3	5	7	2	4	9
3	6	8	1	2	9	5	7	4
7	2	1	5	3	4	9	6	8
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Level: Beginner

## Obituaries

### Lillian "Timmie" McKiernan Sloan, 83

PANHANDLE—Lillian "Timmie" McKiernan Sloan, 83, died Saturday, April 2, 2011.

Rosary will be said at 6 p.m. Tuesday evening in St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday at St. Theresa's with Father Mieczyslaw Przepiora officiating.

Burial will be in Panhandle cemetery under the direction of Minton-Chatwell Funeral Directors of Panhandle.

Mrs. Sloan was born May 3, 1927, to Nick and Arvilla Tymofichuk in Scobey, Mont.

In 1960 she moved to Panhandle with her husband, Jack McKiernan where they were involved in agriculture and owned a farm implement business. Together they raised four children; Betty Jo, Patty, Mark, and Kent.

She was preceded in death by Jack McKiernan in 1989.

On February 24, 2001, Timmie married Herndon Sloan. They resided in Pampa, and just recently moved to make Panhandle their new home.



Sloan

Timmie was a loving wife, mother, and friend to many. Her passion was her family and preparing and serving wonderful meals. She was an active member of St. Theresa's Catholic Church.

She is survived by her husband, Herndon Sloan of Panhandle; four children, Betty Jo Smith of Amarillo, Patricia Dauer of Panhandle, Mark and Rae Lynn McKiernan of Manhattan, Mont., and Kent and Soni McKiernan of Nampa, Idaho; ten grandchildren, Kim Weatherly, Leigh Rae Smith, Tomi Gerber, Trent McKiernan, Andi McKiernan, Luke McKiernan, Sharla Kay Howard McKiernan, Jeromy McKiernan, Aron McKiernan, Dwayne McKiernan; four great-grandchildren, Brady Weatherly, Kelsea Weatherly, Tres Weatherly, and Chase Gerber; one great-great-grandchild, Braxton Weatherly; sister-in-laws, Margie Walters of Amarillo, Carol Harper and her husband, Bill of Amarillo; and brother-in-law, Jack Sloan of Pampa.

The family suggests memorials be to St. Theresa's Catholic Church, P.O. Box 366, Panhandle, TX 79068, American Heart Association, Suite A6, 6605 West Intestate 40, Amarillo, TX 79106, and American Cancer Society, 3915 Bell Street, Amarillo, TX 79109.

### Ruth Evelyn Holdaway, 85

Ruth Evelyn Holdaway, 85, died April 3, 2011, in Canadian.

Services are pending with Carmichael-Whately Funeral Directors.

### Anstey

His first trip to Wonderland Amusement Park in Amarillo, while entertaining, left something to be desired.

"I'm fortunate in that I've lived all over the country," Anstey said. "From the L.A. Basin to upstate New York."

He said he's lived in big cities, and he's lived in small towns and has been fortunate enough to be around a lot of different people.

He enjoys the life experience and the ability to form a bond with new people with different cultural, socio-economic backgrounds, he said.

"It's something I've done over the course of my life," Anstey said.

As a paramedic, he said that's what he's had to do. "You walk into somebody's house," he said. "It doesn't matter where they're from, who they are, where they grew up, you have to form a bond with them and start a communication dialogue."

Anstey said that growing up as he did has helped him.

Initially, he said he wanted to go into the army and become a military policeman.

"I come from a long history of law enforcement," Anstey said. "My dad, granddad, uncles, great uncles have all been

policemen."

But when Anstey went into the army, they didn't have any M.P. slots open.

But they did have a medical N.C.O. (non-commissioned officer) assignment.

"I thought that sounds like an EMT," Anstey said. "Why not?"

His first duty assignment was with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in upstate New York.

"The rest is history," he shrugged.

He became involved in EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with the local medical department activity and was assigned to the emergency department, ambulance section.

"During my off duty time," Anstey said, "I attended my advanced EMT classes and got my critical care technician."

He was one of only three in the whole division that earned his critical care technician certification.

"I just loved it," Anstey said. "I absolutely love EMS."

He ran his first call in September, 1992.

When he got out of the army, he tried something else.

"I went to nursing school," Anstey said. "It wasn't for me."

He said it was hard

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 "Keen!"

1 Statement of belief

6 Abound

10 "— nice day!"

11 Tax cheat's worry

13 Skilled

14 — donna

15 Immoral act

16 West of films

18 Light metal

19 Logical TV character

22 Clumsy fellow

23 Entice

24 Reef stuff

27 Nymph chaser

28 Metal sources

29 Conical cap

30 Near-sighted TV character

35 Poker prize

36 Noon, on a clock

37 "Gnarly!"

38 "My Fair Lady" heroine

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Saturday's answer

9 Copying

26 Fidgety

12 Oil ship

27 Formative

17 Sandy's

29 Wk.'s end

31 Put on a pedestal

20 Drink to

32 Vent cover

21 City square

33 Horse opera

24 Admitted for free

34 Scents

8 Remove from print team

25 Baltimore suffix

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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# AFTERNOON RUSH

## Guymon fires force evacuations

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — High winds are gusting throughout Oklahoma the morning after wildfires forced evacuations in Guymon and Woodward.

Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management spokeswoman Michelann Ooten says homes on the south and west sides of Guymon were evacuated Sunday night because of a fire about six miles west of the Panhandle town. She says an unknown number of homes west of Guymon sustained damage.

Authorities reported multiple vehicle accidents along U.S. Highway 54 due to smoky conditions. The highway was closed for about five hours as crews fought the fire.

The Woodward News reports that homes in the west part of that northwestern Oklahoma town had to be evacuated after a wildfire started about 8:30 p.m. Sunday, but that no structures sustained damage.

Much of Oklahoma remains under a wind advisory Monday.

## Gaming machines seized in Bacliff

BACLIFF (AP) — More than 130 illegal gaming machines have been confiscated in weekend raids in Southeast Texas.

Galveston County Sheriff's Department Lt. Tommy Hansen says about 20 customers were in each of the two game rooms in Bacliff (BAY-klif). No one was arrested.

The raids led to seizure of 134 so-called eight-liner machines, offering video poker and slot-style games.

The Galveston County Daily News reports deputies also seized \$30,000 and a 7-foot statue of an Egyptian god.

Sheriff Freddie Poor says the simultaneous raids Friday night were part of a new crackdown on illegal gambling.

## 5 homes, barns burn in NM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Firefighters battled a wind-driven wildfire Monday that has already destroyed five homes, forced evacuations and knocked out power to about 1,000 homes and businesses, officials said.

More than 100 people at Ruidoso Downs Racetrack and Casino were ordered evacuated Sunday as were several neighborhoods in the community of Ruidoso Downs.

New Mexico Forestry Division spokesman Dan Ware confirmed that the buildings were damaged by the wind-driven blaze, which had not been contained. He said it has scorched more than 2,000 acres, or over 3 square miles, on private, state and federal land in southern New Mexico.

The blaze was near the Alto power substation, which serves about 1,000 homes and businesses, said Clint Gardner, a member services manager for Otero County Electric. The blaze began Sunday afternoon in Gavilan Canyon in Ruidoso.

In the central part of the state, firefighters made progress on another wind-driven wildfire that prompted the evacuation of 50 people from the New Mexico Boys Ranch for underprivileged children, Ware said. That fire grew to about 2,000 acres and was believed to be human caused, he said.

Conditions in the area, which is more than 60 miles south of Albuquerque, were "blowing, smoky, dusty, very, very dry," said Vicky Fox, a fire information officer. No structures have burned, Fox said.

A third fire that had blackened about 2,000 acres in the Uvas Valley was nearing containment, Ware said.

## Suspects in assaults to appear

LIBERTY (AP) — Most of 19 people accused of taking part in a series of sexual assaults against an 11-year-old girl in southeast Texas are set to appear in court.

Court records show all 14 of the adults charged in the case are scheduled to appear in court Monday. Five juvenile boys have also been arrested. Most of the suspects have previously appeared in court.

Since February, police have arrested individuals ranging from a middle-school student to a 27-year-old, accusing them of sexually assaulting the girl on at least four occasions starting in September in the town of Cleveland.

Cleveland has about 8,000 residents and is about 40 miles northeast of Houston.

## BP sells Arco Aluminum

LONDON (AP) — BP announced Monday it is selling its Arco Aluminum subsidiary to a Japanese consortium for \$680 million, but declined to comment on reports that it is about to restart drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

The British company is selling Arco, a supplier of rolled aluminum sheet used mainly in the production of drink cans, as part of its drive to dispose of \$30 billion in noncore assets by the end of this year.

Including the Arco deal, the company has notched up sales worth more than \$24 billion.

"Although a strong business, Arco Aluminum is clearly a non-strategic asset for BP," said Chief Executive Bob Dudley. "Today's agreement will deliver an attractive price for the business, unlocking its value for our shareholders."

The Arco business, based in Louisville, Kentucky, is being sold to a consortium led by Sumitomo Light Metal Industries, Furukawa Sky Aluminum Corp. and Sumitomo Corp.

Meanwhile, BP declined to comment on reports that it had struck a deal with U.S. regulators to restart drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Financial Times reported Monday that the London-based company has been given approval to drill 10 existing wells that were underway before the accident and that it needs to maintain or increase production on existing platforms.

BP needs approval from the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement to restart any work in the Gulf.

The issue is a politically sensitive one for BP and President Barack Obama's administration as the fallout of last year's massive oil spill continues to reverberate. Any approval for drilling is expected to focus on existing production wells, rather than new exploration wells.

# Limited SS benefits for families

TOM MARGENAU  
Creator's Syndicate

## Social Security and you

Q: I am getting close to age 60 and am thinking about signing up for Social Security. But I've always worried that I was cheated out of Social Security benefits in the past. Here is my story. My husband died when I was 35 years old. At the time, my three small children all received Social Security benefits from their father's record. But why didn't I get widow's benefits at the time?

I think I was cheated out of my husband's Social Security. Can I go back and claim those benefits now?

A: Obviously, I don't know all the particulars of your case. But I don't think you were cheated out of anything — and here is why.

Social Security places a limit on the monthly payments that can be made to a family on any one Social Security account. That maximum payment level depends on several variables. But it's generally about 150 percent to 175 percent of the worker's (in this case, your husband's) Social Security rate. Think of your husband's Social Security account as a pie. After your husband died, each of your kids was getting a piece of this pie. Adding you to the beneficiary rolls back then would have simply divided the pie into four pieces instead of three, but the size of the pie would have remained the same.

Here is an example. Let's say your husband's Social Security basic rate was \$1,000. Each child, and you for that matter, would have been due a monthly benefit equal to the survivor's rate of 75 percent or \$750. But the family maximum rule says the most that can be paid to the whole family is about \$1,800. So instead of getting \$750 a piece, your kids each received \$600 per month (\$600 times three equals \$1,800.) Adding you, a fourth person, to the payment rolls would have simply meant you'd each get \$450, giving you the same monthly total of \$1,800.

Now as your children grew older

and left the beneficiary rolls, there is a chance that adding you to the account would have worked and your total family benefits would have still been under the maximum. But I've got a hunch that happened without you even knowing it. In other words, your name was on the account and your payment was simply wrapped up in the family maximum payment you were receiving after there were only two children, and then finally one child, left on the record. But here is one other twist: You would have been due benefits only until your youngest child turned 16.

So my hunch is you were paid correctly. But if you're still not sure and think you've been cheated, you can always have someone check into this when you sign up for your regular widow's benefits.

Q: I paid the maximum Social Security tax every year for my entire working life. So, I assumed I would be getting the maximum Social Security benefit. I just turned 66 and started by Social Security last month. I get about \$2,300 per month. But I recently talked to a guy who said he's receiving \$2,700 per month. I figure either I'm being underpaid or he's getting overpaid. Which is it? I'm very upset!

A: It's neither. And it's nothing to get upset about. I'm sure you're being paid correctly, and so is the other guy.

As I've pointed out many times in this column, men get way too worked up about this maximum Social Security business. And it really is just men. In the last 40 years, thousands of men have complained to me that they are not getting the maximum Social Security retirement benefit. And in all that time, maybe three or

four women have registered the same complaint.

Here is an important message for all those guys out there worried about size ... and by that I mean the size of their Social Security benefit: THERE IS NO MAXIMUM SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFIT.

That may surprise some people because every year, the Social Security Administration does announce a "maximum" Social Security retirement payment. It's currently just over \$2,300, which is what you're getting. But that is the maximum rate that can be paid to someone who turns 66 and retires this year.

However, there are many people who work beyond age 66. If you delay taking your Social Security benefits until age 70, for example, you would get approximately a 32 percent "delayed retirement bonus" added to your monthly Social Security check.

And some people continue to work well into their 70s or even 80s. Even though the delayed retirement bonus stops at age 70, a well-paid working senior's Social Security benefit will continue to increase because of additional years of high earnings added to his or her Social Security record. Because a person could conceivably keep working forever (that is, of course, until he or she dies), there is no maximum limit to how high such a person's Social Security benefit could go.

Q: Is there a minimum Social Security benefit?

A: No. The original Social Security rules stipulated that no one's monthly Social Security retirement benefit could go below a certain level. But that "guaranteed minimum" rate was eliminated about 30 years ago. I've never seen any official statistics about this. But the lowest Social Security retirement benefit I've personally ever seen was about \$50 per month.

If you have a Social Security question, Tom Margenau has the answer. Contact him at [thomas.margenau@comcast.net](mailto:thomas.margenau@comcast.net).

## Budget

working to make it better.

Republican Speaker Joe Straus also said work on the budget would continue.

"Balancing our state budget requires very difficult choices, and I want to congratulate every member for their hard work in passing House Bill 1," Straus said. "This is a significant step in the process, and the Texas House looks forward to working with the Senate on the final legislation."

The budget next goes to the Senate for consideration.

"Thank God for the Senate," quipped Rep. Harold Dutton, a Houston Democrat.

Public education, representing more than half the state budget, faces historic cutbacks and would fall almost \$800 per student short of what current funding laws require for basic classroom instruction. The plan also cuts full-day pre-kindergarten, teacher incentive pay, college financial aid and numerous other education programs.

With massive teacher and school employee layoffs expected, experts said it's the first time since the current school finance structure was put in place in 1949 that public schools would get less than called for under state funding laws from one budget to the next.

"This budget harms my children and all of our children," said Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio. "It hurts our state's efforts to grow an educated workforce."

Last month, the nonpartisan Legislative Budget Board released data showing the state would lose 335,000

jobs if the House budget proposal became law. The board said the budget would eliminate 188,787 state jobs by the end of 2013 and private companies would eliminate 146,457 jobs under the House plan.

"You say you don't want to raise taxes because we're going to hurt jobs, well, you're killing 335,000 jobs, so does that mean that you may as well raise taxes?" asked Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-San Antonio.

Among the changes approved Sunday was a two-year hiring freeze for state agencies, except for emergency hiring needs approved by state leaders.

Democratic Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, argued for an amendment that would fund the state for 18 months rather than 24 months.

He said a shorter budget period would allow the Legislature to come back to the Capitol and revisit funding for the final six months based on healthier revenue from higher oil prices and sales tax receipts.

Texas adopted the 24-month budget provision back when lawmakers "had to ride a horse from Texarkana and Brownsville to get to Austin," said Rep. Mark Strama, D-Austin, arguing that the two-year budget is an antiquated funding model that most other states have long abandoned.

The amendment failed on a party-line vote.

The House also stripped about \$100 million in higher fees from the budget — sort of. The charges would be contingent on the approval of separate legislation. Those fees include items such as higher pesticide license fees and an "annual child support service fee" charged by the attorney general's office.

While the economy has left many states with budget deficits, the economic downturn caused only a third of the revenue shortfall in Texas. When consumer spending slowed, state revenue from sales tax receipts also decreased, creating a \$4 billion deficit in this year's budget.

Most of the shortfall was created when the state overhauled the business tax structure and the school finance system in 2005. The new tax structure did not generate enough money to offset decreases in school property tax rates, creating a recurring \$10 billion budget hole.

In the current budget, most of the hole was filled with some state savings and federal stimulus dollars that are no longer available.

In the Senate, leaders are searching for "non-tax revenue" and have vowed to put billions more in public education. That sets up a budgetary battle that could stretch into the final days of the legislative session. Ai or provoke a special session this summer.

The state will have at least \$9.4 billion available in reserves in the Rainy Day Fund, made up from oil and gas tax revenue. Leaders have approved a plan to use about a third of that to close a deficit in the current budget, but Gov. Rick Perry has fought using any more.

cont. from page 1

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# Viewpoints

## Today in History

Today is Monday, April 4, the 94th day of 2011. There are 271 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On April 4, 1968, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., 39, was shot to death at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn. (James Earl Ray later pleaded guilty to assassinating King, then spent the rest of his life claiming his innocence before dying in 1998.)

### On this date:

In 1818, Congress decided the flag of the United States would consist of 13 red and white stripes and 20 stars, with a new star to be added for every new state of the Union.

In 1841, President William Henry Harrison succumbed to pneumonia one month after his inaugural, becoming the first U.S. chief executive to die in office.

In 1850, the city of Los Angeles was incorporated.

In 1949, 12 nations, including the United States, signed the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C.

In 1960, Elvis Presley recorded "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" in Nashville for RCA Victor.

In 1975, more than 130 people, most of them children, were killed when a U.S. Air Force transport plane evacuating Vietnamese orphans crash-landed shortly after take-off from Saigon.

In 1981, Henry Cisneros became the first Hispanic elected mayor of a major U.S. city, San Antonio.

In 1983, the space shuttle Challenger roared into orbit on its maiden voyage.

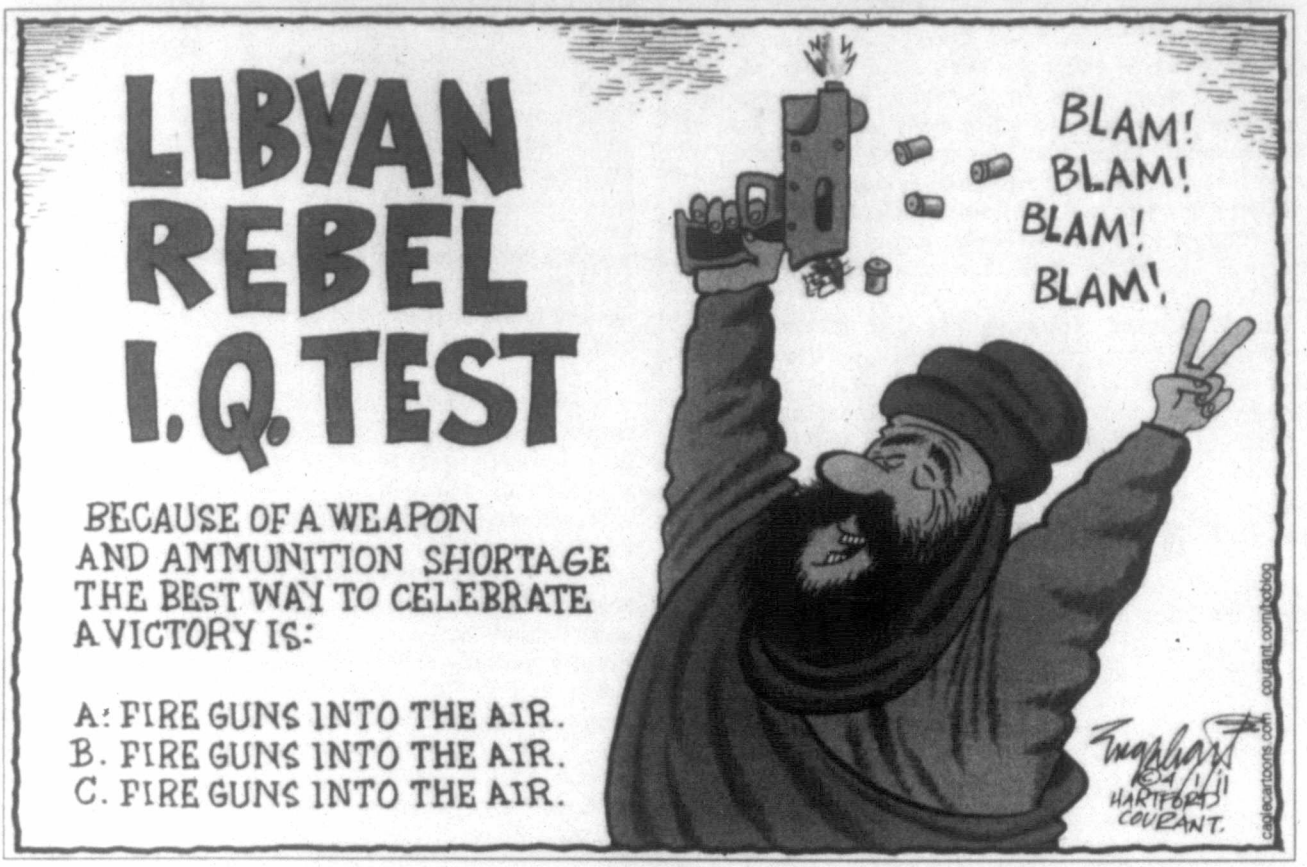
Ten years ago: Chinese President Jiang Zemin demanded the United States apologize for the collision between a U.S. Navy spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet, the Bush administrator offered a chorus of regrets, but no apology.

Five years ago: The Iraq tribunal announced new criminal charges against Saddam Hussein and six others, accusing them of genocide and crimes against humanity stemming from a 1980s crack-down against Kurds.

One year ago: A magnitude-7.2 earthquake killed two people in Mexicali, Mexico. A U.S.-Russian space team sent Easter greetings down to Earth after their Soyuz spacecraft docked flawlessly at the International Space Station.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Elizabeth Wilson is 90. Author poet Maya Angelou is 83. Recording executive Clive Davis is 79. Bandleader Hugh Masekela is 72. Actor Craig T. Nelson is 67. Actor Walter Charles is 66. Actress Christine Lahti is 61. Country singer Steve Gatlin (The Gatlin Brothers) is 60. Writer-producer David E. Kelley is 55. Actor Phil Morris is 52. Actress Lorraine Toussaint is 51. Actor Hugo Weaving is 51. Rock musician Craig Adams (The Cult) is 49. Actor David Cross is 47. Actor Robert Downey Jr. is 46. Actress Nancy McKeon is 45. Actor Barry Pepper is 41. Rock singer Josh Todd (Buckcherry) is 40. Singer Jill Scott is 39. Magician David Blaine is 38. Singer Kelly Price is 38. Actor James Roday is 35. Actress Natasha Lyonne is 32. Actress Amanda Righetti is 28. Actress Jamie Lynn Spears is 20.

Thought for Today: "You can kill a man but you can't kill an idea." — Medgar Evers, American civil rights activist (1926-1968)



## Some in the pocket for an admin building

When I was a little girl in Marfa, there was a community Halloween carnival. At this annual event there was a Pocket Lady who looked like a gypsy woman with big, dangle earrings and bright colorful swirling skirts.

The Pocket Lady wore a big apron, and with tickets children could choose a pocket and buy a trinket: small toy, a certificate for a treat, or candy. The ticket could buy the contents of only one pocket, so the buyer had to choose carefully. Sometimes big pockets had small things, but often small pockets had the best treats.

This pocket analogy might help explain some of the money matters of our school district. As a new school board member, I am learning that different money pockets have different treats.

For example, when the voters of Pampa passed the Bond Election, that money was in one special pocket. Bond money may be used only to improve or construct new facilities. The additions and new construction of Pampa High School and our new Pampa Junior High School came from this bond money pocket.

What is left in the pocket?

### County Class



CAY WARNER

Approximately 3.5 million dollars now remains. The school board members deliberately determined not to allocate funds for a central administration building until after the major campus needs had been met.

Now the trustees are deciding how best to use this remaining money. What must be remembered is that this money was designated and voted on by Pampa citizens, and it can be used only for these purposes.

Currently Pampa ISD central administration includes the superintendent's offices, curriculum and instruction, food services, technology, business

services, transportation, maintenance, and custodial.

These departments are in many different locations: Carver Center, the Bus Barn, temporary buildings at the old junior high site, and parts of the Horace Mann campus. Coordinating services with offices in so many places is a challenge!

With the remaining money in the Bond Pocket, the school board will be able to determine a location where Central Administration can truly be "central" and better coordinated. We must make good decisions because the funds have to come from only that special pocket.

School personnel and the school board members have worked diligently to be good managers of the bond funds. As good stewards, we try to get the best value we can and to use wisely the resources that are in the Pockets for Pampa ISD.

With the difficult financial challenges of the State of Texas at this time, we must make the best decisions we can for the children of Pampa.

Cay Warner is a member of the School Board for Pampa Independent School District.

## Medicare rise could mean no Social Security COLA

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of retired and disabled people in the United States had better brace for another year with no increase in Social Security payments.

The government is projecting a slight cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security benefits next year, the first increase since 2009. But for most beneficiaries, rising Medicare premiums threaten to wipe out any increase in payments, leaving them without a raise for a third straight year.

About 45 million people — 1 in 7 in the country — receive both Medicare and Social Security. By law, beneficiaries have their Medicare Part B premiums, which cover doctor visits, deducted from their Social Security payments each month.

When Medicare premiums rise more than Social Security payments, millions of people living on fixed incomes don't get raises. On the other hand, most don't get pay cuts, either, because a hold-harmless provision prevents higher Part B premiums from reducing Social Security payments for most people.

David Certner of AARP estimates that as many as three-fourths of beneficiaries will have their entire Social Security increase swallowed by rising Medicare premiums next year.

It's a tough development for retirees who lost much of their savings when the stock market collapsed, who lost value in their homes when the housing market crashed and who can't find work because the job market is weak or they are in poor health.

"You just don't have the words to say how much this impacts a person," said Joyce Trebilcock, a retired legal secretary from Belle, Mo., a small town about 100 miles west of St. Louis.

Like most U.S. retirees, Trebilcock, 65, said Social Security is her primary source of income. She said a back injury about 15 years ago left her unable to work, so she applied for disability benefits. Now, she lives on a \$1,262 Social Security payment each month, with more than \$500 going to pay the mortgage.

"I've cut back on about everything I can, and I take the rest out of my savings," Trebilcock said. "Thank God I've got that. That's going to run out

before long, at the rate I'm going. ... I have no idea what I'm going to do then."

Medicare premiums are absorbing a growing share of Social Security benefits, leaving retired and disabled people with less money for other expenses, according to a report by the Congressional Research Service.

Social Security recipients spend, on average, 9 percent of their benefits on Medicare Part B premiums, plus 3 percent on premiums for the Medicare prescription drug program. By 2078, people just retiring would spend nearly one-third of their benefits on premiums for both Medicare programs, the report said. Also, when premiums for the prescription drug program increase, as they do almost every year, they can result in a pay cut for Social Security recipients.

"We could very well be entering a period where we're all stuck with flat benefits because of the growth in health care costs," said Mary Johnson, a policy analyst at The Senior Citizens League.

By law, Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, are determined each year by a government measure of inflation. When consumer prices go up, payments go up. When consumer prices fall, payments stay flat until prices rebound.

There had been a COLA every year from 1975 through 2009, when a spike in energy prices resulted in a 5.8 percent increase, the largest in 27 years. Since then, the recession has depressed consumer prices, resulting in no COLA in 2010 or 2011.

Older people might feel they are falling behind because they haven't had a raise since 2009, but many are benefiting, said Andrew Biggs, a former deputy commissioner of the Social Security Administration who is now a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Consumer prices dropped, but Social Security benefits didn't drop, Biggs said. At the same time, health care costs went up, but Part B premiums stayed the same for most beneficiaries.

"They are better off because of that," Biggs said. "Somebody else is paying for a greater share of their health care. This will get me hate mail,

obviously. But it is what it is."

Next year, the trustees who oversee Social Security project a 1.2 percent COLA. President Barack Obama, in his spending proposal for the budget year that begins Oct. 1, projects a COLA of 0.9 percent. The average monthly payment is \$1,077, so either way, the typical increase is projected to be between \$10 and \$13.

The current spike in energy prices could boost next year's COLA, if it lasts through September, when the increase for 2012 will be calculated. The COLA will be announced in mid-October.

Medicare Part B premiums must be set each year to cover 25 percent of program costs. By law, they have been frozen at 2009 levels for about 75 percent of beneficiaries because there has been no increase in Social Security. That means the entire premium hike has been borne by the remaining 25 percent, which includes new enrollees, high-income families and low-income beneficiaries who have their premiums paid by Medicaid, the federal-state health care program for the poor.

The 2009 premium levels, which are still paid by about three-fourths of beneficiaries, are \$96.40 a month. Most of those who enrolled in the program in 2010 pay \$110.50 a month and most of those who enrolled in 2011 pay \$115.40.

The Medicare trustees project a Part B premium of \$113.80 a month for next year. Obama's budget projects a monthly premium of \$108.20, said Donald McLeod, a spokesman for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. McLeod cautioned that the projections could change significantly by September, when 2012 premiums are calculated.

Under either projection, a small share of beneficiaries would get lower premiums. The vast majority would get higher premiums that could swallow their Social Security COLA.

"That little raise helps us," said Estelle Jones, 66, of St. Paul, Minn. "Food, heating bills, water bill, all that stuff has gone up. ... All my medicines are very expensive, and every month I have to figure out how I am going to pay for them."

## The PAMPA NEWS

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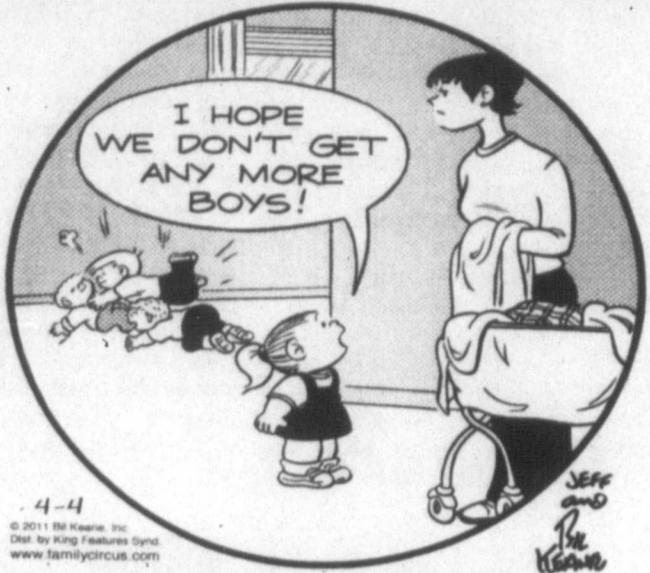
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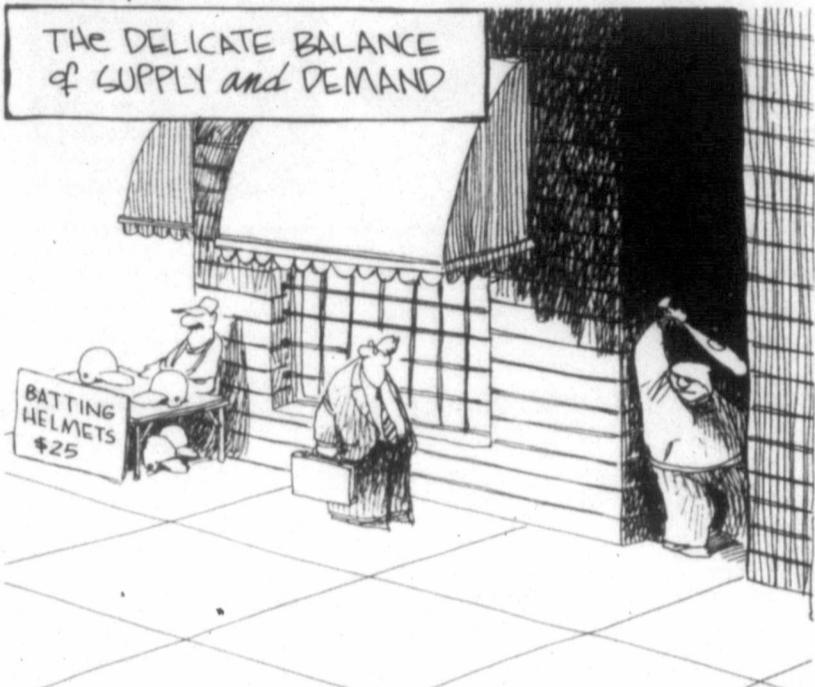


# comics PAGE

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Non Sequitur



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Nest Heads



## daily horoscope

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** for Tuesday, April 5, 2011:

This year, you make a difference. At times, you might feel challenged. Actually, situations or events will test your thinking. If you look within, you will find better ideas once you walk away from an innate rigidity. A new way of thinking becomes a strong possibility. If you are single, you could meet someone quite special after May. This could be a romance for the history books! If you are attached, the two of you share more than in the past and benefit enormously from frequent getaways together. With two TAURUS in a disagreement, neither Bull will win!

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive;

3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Don't allow stubbornness to play out. Ultimately, you will be sorry. You need to change your stance, which can only happen if you open up your perceptions. You could be surprised by what you hear, which might be news to you! Tonight: Do for you.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Understand where you are coming from. You could be overly tired and drawn. Think in terms of growth and change, with a touch of luck added in. You could be exhausted by everything that happens around you. Tonight: All smiles.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★ Pull back and observe. You are most likely to gain if you relax in this mood and don't push yourself too much. Understand why a "no" is just that. Be smart -- try to avoid a negative by observing more. A partner seems to be much different. Tonight: Vanish.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Zero in on what appears to be a high priority. Don't sell yourself short in a meeting. Understand what is going on with others. It is by following this path that you will gain. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ You might want to be more visible and ready to take a stand. Though you don't know which way to go, clearly your chosen direction does make a difference to others. Don't say anything until

you are 100 percent sure. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ Deal directly with someone at a distance. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you hear. You wonder why the person in question isn't more direct with his or her feelings, especially since they are obvious. Tonight: Think "vacation."

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ A partner dominates, and you might not be sure of your choices and direction. Deal directly with this person, whether or not you agree with his or her ideas. Be diplomatic. You know how to handle the problem. Tonight: Togetherness works.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Others dominate, and your role is to facilitate. You might not be comfortable in this position, but it might be time to get to the bottom of this response and what triggers you about letting someone else run the show. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★ Keep your focus, though you might be forced to look at a situation differently than in the past. A premise on which you based your thinking might no longer be valid. Let go, and fear change less. Tonight: Working as late as need be.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes with someone you care about. This person is more like you than you realize. Walk in this person's shoes. Then you will get the gist of the situation. Tonight: Act like it is Friday night.

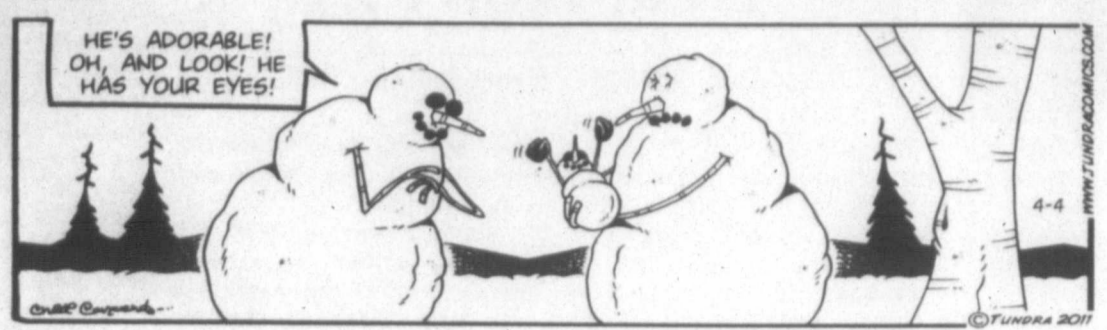
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★ Your instinct to stay close to home might be more logically based than you thought. Events unfolding around you point to others' need for your time. Also, you could be much more pivotal in a personal matter than you thought. Tonight: At home.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Be more in charge of your life. Don't let minute details slip by you. You know what you want and have every intention of making it so. A forgotten thank-you note or call could play into a decision in the long run. Tonight: Run errands on the way home.

Tundra



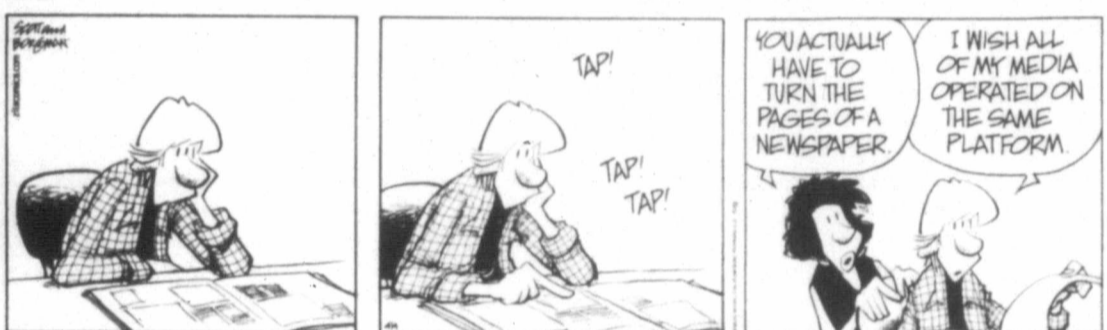
Shoe



Mother Goose and Grim



Zits



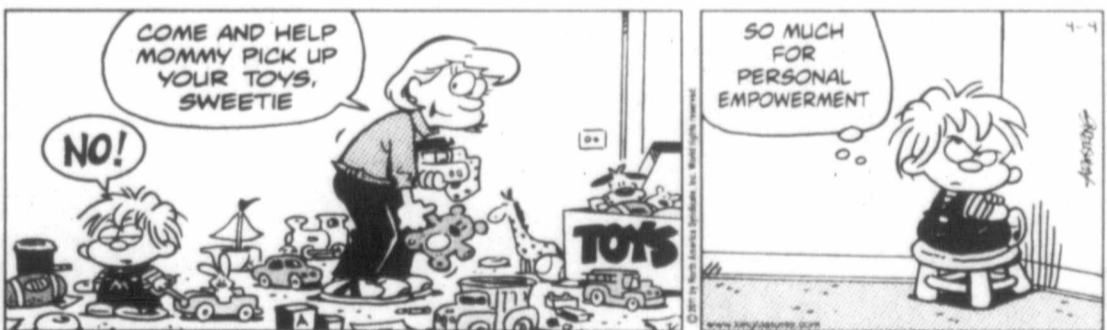
Garfield



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



Blondie





# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I divorced after she had a year-long affair with a co-worker, whom she eventually married. Early in our marriage I suspected she was having an affair with a relative, which she finally admitted to after our divorce.

Now that our youngest son, "Douglas," has become an adult, he is beginning to strongly resemble his "Uncle Joel." I don't know if other members of our large family have noticed, but when I asked my ex if it's possible that Douglas is not my biological

son, she became very quiet. I passed a note to Joel, but he blew it off without comment.

Douglas will soon be moving far away to begin his career and does not suspect anything. Should he be told who his real father is? Should his siblings be told the truth, or should I let Joel and my ex continue to lie as though nothing ever happened? — DAD WITH A DILEMMA IN MICHIGAN

**DEAR DAD:** Unless you are 100 percent certain that Douglas is not your child, you should

not tell him otherwise. And the same goes for his siblings.

Before you take this any further, my advice is to discuss this with your lawyer because children born "within the bonds of wedlock" are presumed to be the husband's. However, if there is irrefutable proof that you are not Douglas' biological father, he should be informed so he can be aware of any medical information he may need in the future.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband and I are childless. I

have two young nephews whom I adore. We have offered to baby-sit whenever my brother and sister-in-law need a night out. Sadly, we have been overlooked. Instead, our sister-in-law asks her younger sister to baby-sit. I understand that my sister-in-law is very close to her sister, but I can't help feeling insulted and a little jealous.

I'm a teacher, and my husband and I have good judgment. We also live closer than her sister does. I am struggling with these feelings, and I'm not sure if I should say anything. — NOT FIRST CHOICE IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR NOT FIRST CHOICE:** Of course you should speak up. It's certainly better than fuming and harboring hurt feelings.

Not knowing your sister-in-law, it's hard to say why she has been reluctant to have you baby-sit. Perhaps she has simply fallen into a routine with her sister. Better to get this out in the open than to brood.

**DEAR ABBY:** A close relative became engaged last year. "Albert" is in his late 30s and has never been married. The family was delighted and welcomed his fiancée, "Claudia," with open arms. They have set a wedding date for later this year.

However, we have begun to witness Claudia's out-of-control behavior. There have been instances of screaming, abusive language and tantrums over simple things when she didn't get her way. She has

always demanded that Albert support her behavior no matter how inappropriate it was.

Several family members had private conversations with Albert to warn him that the abuse will only get worse if they marry. Instead of heeding our warnings, he told Claudia about it. Now they are both alienated from the family and still planning to be married. What do we do now? — AFRAID FOR HIS FUTURE IN ALABAMA

**DEAR AFRAID FOR HIS FUTURE:** Now you wait to see if you are on the guest list. And if you are, you will have to decide if you want to attend, which will imply that you approve of a union you think will be a disaster.



The Pampa News'

# Classifieds

Sell it fast! Classifieds work! The Pampa News is delivered to over 4,000 homes daily. What better way to get the word out? To place an ad, contact Beverly Taylor at 806-669-2525 or via email at [classified@thepampanews.com](mailto:classified@thepampanews.com) today!

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### 21 Help Wanted

**NOTICE**  
Readers are urged to fully investigate advertisements which require payment in advance for information, services or goods.

**NEED** retired couple or single to manage motel in Clarendon. Call 665-1875

### R. Chester Trucking

R. Chester Trucking is searching for good responsible and dependable truck drivers who are not drug addicts or drunks. We are a Family Based Company looking for the right people to join our family.

If interested come and apply at 1800 W. McCullough, Pampa, TX 7am-5pm or call 806-665-0379

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**NEED:** Wheel Alignment / Tire Tech for busy auto shop. Exp. a plus, but will train. Call 665-4851 or come by 217 E. Atchison.

**Now Accepting Applications for F-T or P-T Sales Assoc**  
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**PART-TIME Afternoon Position** available. Entry-level 25 hrs per week. Computer skills necessary with a working knowledge of programs such as Photoshop, Quark Xpress and InDesign helpful. We will train the creative person who is detail oriented and not afraid of tackling something new. Your artistic side would find an outlet in this position. Send resume to Box 03, c/o Pampa News, P.O. Box 2198, Pampa, TX 79066

### 60 Household

2 Sage Brown Recliners for sale. Call 665-6825.

### 69 Misc.

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**SOCIAL Worker** needed. Competitive salary. Wheeler Nursing & Rehabilitation, contact Kenna Howard 806-826-3505 for details.

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For additional info, please call 806-665-0800 or stop by our office at 106 N. Cuyler. Applications will be accepted until April 12, 2011.

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**NEED:** Wheel Alignment / Tire Tech for busy auto shop. Exp. a plus, but will train. Call 665-4851 or come by 217 E. Atchison.

**NEED** exp. mechanic to work on chemical pumps, turbine meters, valve & controls, gas prod. units & other type oil field equip. Call Ron T & J Valve 665-0868

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313 Roberta Call 806-679-7985

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patio, oversize gar. & bonus rm. Office space. \$99,000, negotiable. No owner finance. 2143 N. Sumner. 806-663-1514

**HOUSE For Sale, 2105 N. Dwight, 3 bd, 1 bath,** TRUSTAR Real Estate 1600 sq. ft. central h/a, for all your complete storm cellar, covered real estate needs. Show, 716-9830. 665-4595.

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# Sports

## Harvesters power past Golden Wolves, alone in first

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Harvesters run-ruled the Dalhart Golden Wolves in the season opener last February. In their first district meeting, Pampa produced a similar result in a 15-5 victory Saturday at Earl Smith Field.

Head coach Kaleb Snelgrooves said his team hit the ball well.

"We only had four hits Tuesday and we had 13 today," Snelgrooves said. "Everyone one through nine hit well."

Junior Collin Killgo was 2-for-3 with a two-run home run and two runs scored. Junior Jared Lusk was 2-for-3 with a RBI double and two runs scored. Sophomore James Thompson was 2-for-3 with three runs scored and a stolen base. Junior Cole Engle was 2-for-4 with two singles and 3 RBI.

The Harvesters got on the board first in the top of the second. Senior Tyler Malone led off with a single and stole second. Junior Cole Engle drove in Malone with a single to left. Sophomore Tyler Powell followed with a walk. Engle and Powell stole bases to move into scoring position, but would be stranded as senior Zach Murray struck out and senior Brent Green grounded into a double play.

Pampa added to their lead in the second. Thompson led off with a walk and scored on a double by Lusk. Killgo hit a two-run home run and expanded the Harvesters' lead to 4-0. The junior said he just got a good hit.

"I was just trying to put the ball in play," Killgo said.

Malone followed with a double and scored on a single by Powell. The sophomore stole second but was stranded when

junior Devin Coleman struck out and Murray flied out.

The Golden Wolves cut into Pampa's lead in the bottom of the inning. Camron Ford reached base on an error by Thompson and advanced on a stolen base. Ford scored on an error by Lusk. Kevin Watson singled and later scored. Chad Ogle singled and later scored. The Golden Wolves stranded runners at second when Antonio Ottaviani struck out and Victor Martinez grounded out.

Pampa scored two runs in the fourth on four hits. In the fifth inning, the Harvesters broke the game open with eight runs on five hits. Seven different Harvesters scored with Coleman scoring twice. Engle hit a 2 RBI single. The Harvesters led 15-3 after five.

The junior said he was just trying to hit the ball hard.

"I hit one hard that was caught," Engle said. "I hit one hard and drove in two."

Dalhart scored two runs to cut the lead to 10 but couldn't get the run they needed to extend the game. Killgo struck out Dylan Ballard to end the game.

Malone (3-2) started and earned the win in four and two third innings pitched. The senior struck out 13.

The junior varsity won 24-10.

The Harvesters (10-10, 2-0) have sole possession of first and host Borger 5 p.m. Tuesday. The two teams met February 26 for the Cavalier Classic Championship that Borger won 6-4 in 11 innings. Engle said he is looking forward to playing against Borger and avenging that loss that he didn't play in due to still playing basketball.

"The last game went to extra innings and I watched," Engle said. "I wanted to be out there bad."



photo courtesy of Joe Murray  
Junior Collin Killgo hits a two-run home run against Dalhart in the top of the third. The Harvesters won 15-5 and have sole possession of first.

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# Sports

## Lady Harvesters continue to roll, hunt down Wolves

ANDREW GLOVER  
aglover@thepampanews.com

The Pampa Lady Harvesters played their final unknown district foe in the Dalhart Lady Golden Wolves Saturday in Dalhart. Just like the first two games, the Lady Harvesters hit the ball well in a 14-3 victory Saturday.

Head coach Bobbi Gill said she was pleased with how her team finished.

"We had a little lull in the middle," Gill said. "We came back and finished strong. I'm proud of the girls for how they finished."

The Lady Harvesters took control from the get-go. Sophomore Claire Hopkins led off with a walk and advanced on a stole base and a single by freshman Krysten Miller. Senior Jordan Mayhew drove in Hopkins with a single to center. Miller scored when Mayhew was caught in a rundown between first and second.

Mayhew ended up safe at second but collided with Dalhart's second baseman Aracely Ortiz. Ortiz had a gash in her leg and had to be helped off the field. Gabby Bower took over at second.

When the game resumed, sophomore Tiffany Britton singled. Junior Alanna Stephens hammered a pitch over the center field wall for her third home run of the season and second in the last two games. Stephens said she just got a good pitch.

"It was one right down the middle and I put my bat on it," Stephens said.

Pampa scored six runs on four hits and batted a round. The Lady Golden Wolves got a run back in the bottom of the inning. Courtney Dovel singled but was thrown out by senior Shanna Keown at second. Melody Gonzales walked and scored on a double by Molly Kruse. The inning ended when Benji Romero flied out to center.

Pampa piled on the next inning. Sophomore Bailey Beck led off with

a double to center. Mayhew drove her in with a single. Stephens and junior McKinlee Stokes hit RBI singles and increased Pampa's lead to 9-1.

Dalhart held Pampa scoreless the next three innings. Pampa only reached base three times and stranded runners at second base in the third and fourth innings and at third base in the fifth inning. The Lady Golden Wolves scored their final runs in the fourth. Romero doubled and Alex Allen followed with a single. Stephens tried to pick off Allen and threw the ball in center field allowing Romero to score. With two outs in the inning, Stokes wasn't able to field a grounder and Allen scored. Britton ended the inning by getting Sadye Hammett to ground out on a bunt.

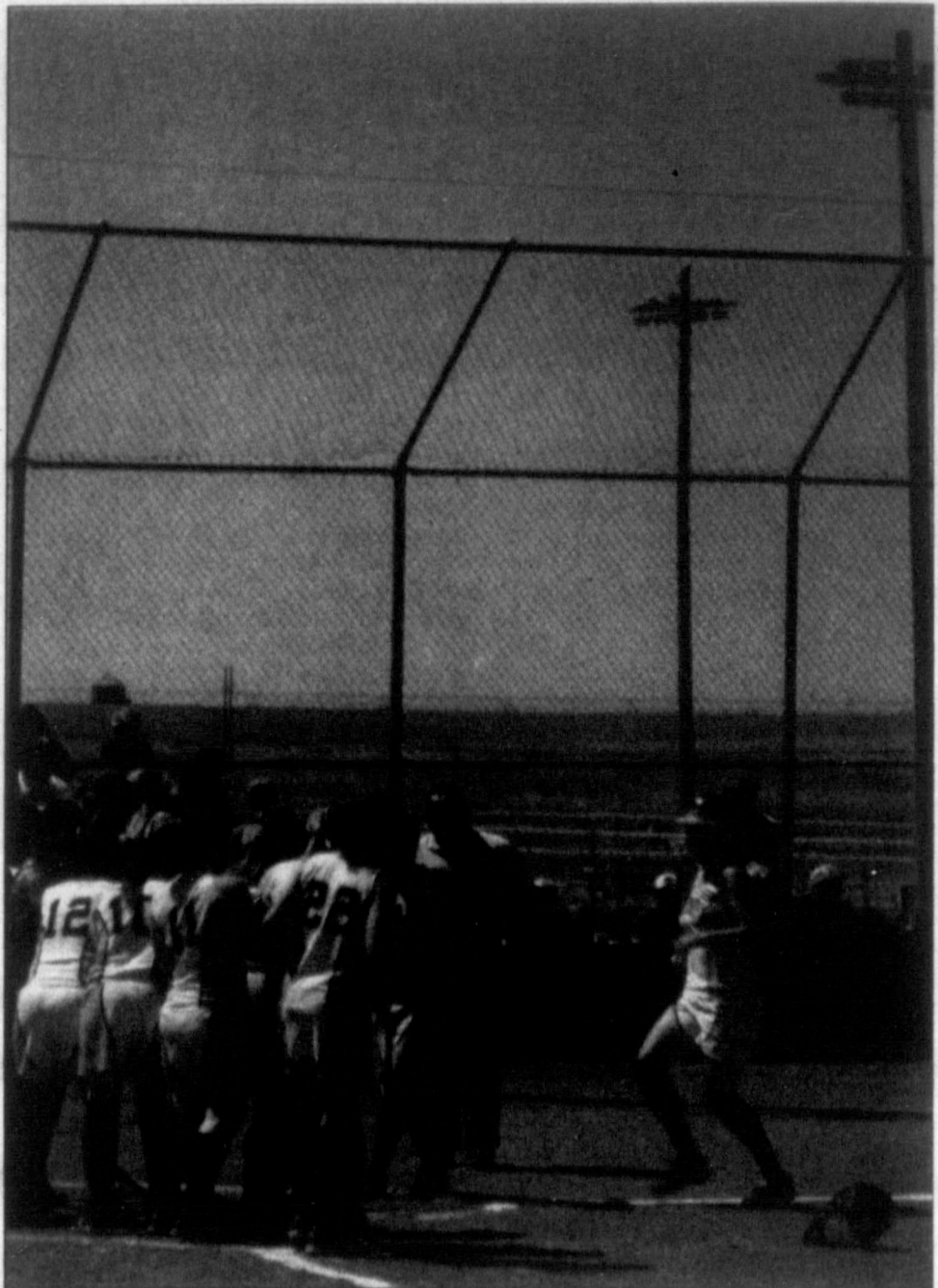
The Lady Harvesters finished off the Lady Golden Wolves in the sixth. Alanna Stephens hit a 2 RBI single and brought her total to six. An error by the first baseman scored Stephens. Hopkins scored Stokes on a sacrifice bunt to put Pampa ahead 13-3. Beck drove in Keown for the last run of the game with a double.

Britton (7-2) earned the win and allowed three runs (one earned) on six hits, walked one and struck out five. Stephens was the leading hitter with three hits and six RBI. Stephens had 10 RBI this week.

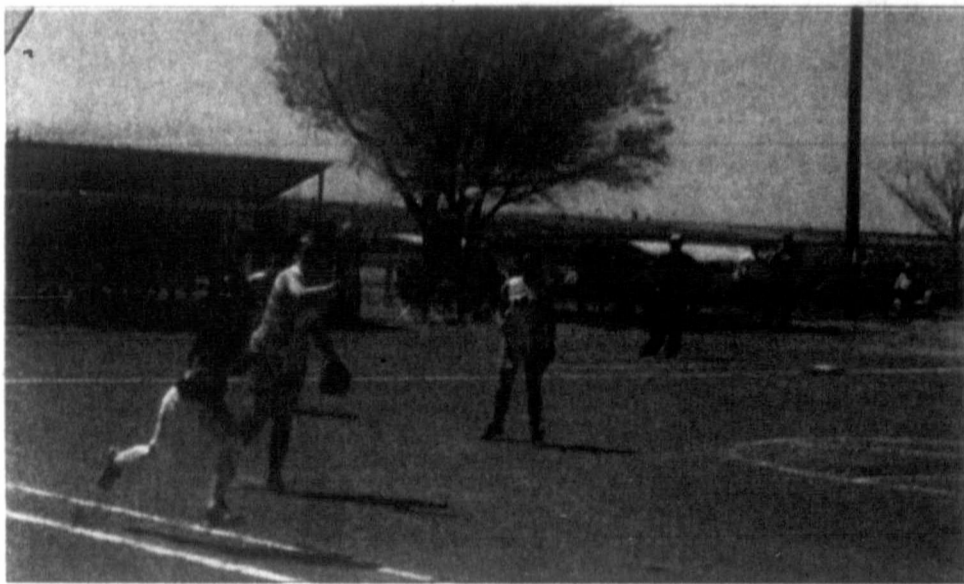
Dovel took the loss and allowed 14 runs (12 earned) on 15 hits, walked three and struck out two. The starting pitcher was also the leading hitter with two singles.

The junior varsity (21-5, 3-0) won 25-12. Junior Kaylene Wyant hit her first home run. Coach Jim Gill's comments were unavailable as of press time.

The Lady Harvesters (17-7, 3-0) host Borger 5 p.m. Tuesday. Gill said the first three wins increased her team's confidence but hopes they don't get overconfident.

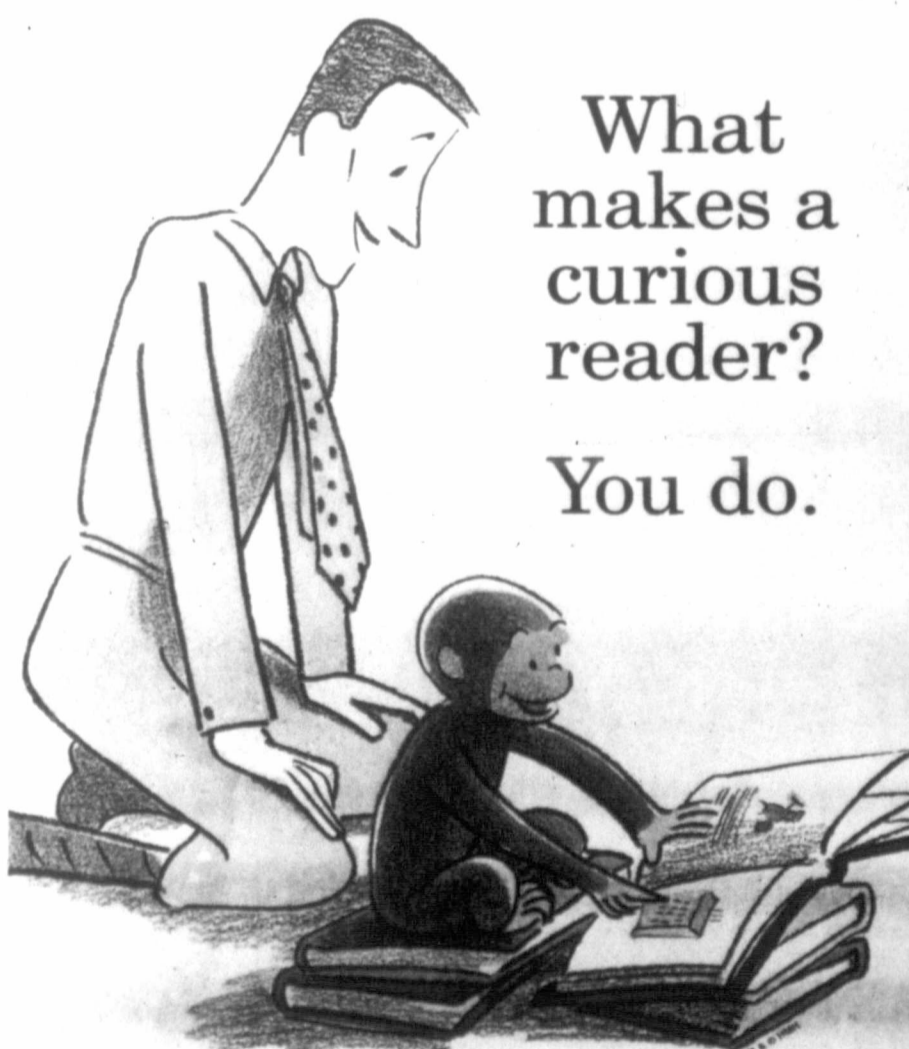


staff photo by Andrew Glover  
Junior Alanna Stephens runs home after a three-run home run and her teammates are waiting to greet her. Stephens had six RBI in the game.



staff photo by Andrew Glover


Senior Madi Shults throws to McKinlee Stokes (not pictured) to get a Dalhart baserunner Saturday. Shults had three unassisted outs.



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